

WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020
Location: Spire Conference Center
 750, First St, N.E,
 Washington, DC 20002

MINUTES

Agenda Item#	Items
Attendance	Commissioners present: Chair Christopher Hart, Commissioners Robert Bobb, Debra Farrar-Dyke, John Contestabile, Greg Hull, Michael Rush. All WMSC Staff and the public.
1.	Call to Order. Chris Hart, WMSC Chair, called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was achieved.
2.	Safety Message. David Mayer, WMSC CEO, outlined emergency exit procedures for evacuating the Spire Center.
3.	Approval of the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 public meeting. The motion was seconded. <u>ACTION:</u> The minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.
4.	Public Comments. Chair Hart invited comments from members of the public, and there were no public comments.
5.	Chair’s Remarks. Chairman Chris Hart welcomed attendees to the public meeting. <i>He Thanked David Mayer for finding a new meeting location. He also thanked Zach Radford, who recently stepped down as WMSC External Relations Director and wished him success in his future endeavors. He also announced new WMSC Commissioners, Effective for a two-year term beginning March 28, Christopher Hart will serve as Chair, Greg Hull as Vice Chair, and Debra Farrar-Dyke as Secretary/Treasurer.</i>
6.	CEO’s Remarks. Dr. David Mayer, WMSC CEO, provided the following comments: <i>Dr. Mayer’s appreciation for outgoing External Affairs Director Zach Radford’s contributions to the WMSC; described recent efforts on the oversight by the WMSC on Silver Line Phase 2 including the most recent effort to conduct an independent assessment of the fire and life safety aspects of the new stations, the guideway, wayside buildings, to ensure they are built with appropriate fire and life safety considerations for passengers, employees, and first responders. The entire WMSC</i>

	<p><i>technical and management team received instruction on fire life safety considerations for rail transit facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Mayer updated on WMSC role and work performed on overseeing WMATA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. Once the WMSC technical review determines that the agency safety plan is sufficiently robust and meets all the regulatory requirements, Metro will present it to its Board of Directors for approval in May. Following a briefing to the WMSC Commissioners, Dr. Mayer will communicate the WMSC’s approval in time to meet the July 2020 deadline.</i></p>
7.	<p>Consent Agenda <i>Chris Hart, WMSC Chair: The Commissioners have had the opportunity to review safety event investigations reports E19054, E19374, and E19392. These three reports all pertain to individuals who intentionally placed themselves in the path of a train. Although by FTA regulations these are classified as “accidents,” the events were not accidental; consequently, these three reports are placed on a “consent agenda.” Commissioners voted to adopt these reports.</i></p>
8.	<p>Investigations <i>Ms. Sharmila Samarasinghe, WMSC COO: Highlighted two types of incidents: The Advanced Mobile Flagger component of Metro’s Roadway Worker Protection rules and train misrouting. Ms. Samarasinghe highlighted these to draw attention to the positive changes that the WMSC is advancing to improve the overall safety performance of Metrorail.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, the WMSC Subject Matter Experts, Mr. Bruce Walker, Mr. Manuel Lopez, Mr. Jemayne Walker, Ms. Kemmery Kendrick and Mr. Tanmaya (Tino) Sahoo presented specifics of several investigations that were being brought for adoption by the Commissioners. These included, E19205, E19325, E18524, E19151, E19152, E19159, E18267, and E19456.</i></p> <p><i>After the above reports were adopted Mr. Lopez described an event for which the WMSC required WMATA conduct an engineering investigation. The incident involved several 7000-series trains consists experiencing doors closing without door chimes or announcements being complete. It was determined that a software issue caused the doors to close before the announcement and door chimes which preceded was complete. WMSC is monitoring Metrorail’s ongoing efforts to resolve this issue through a software modification on the 7000 series fleet.</i></p>
9.	<p>State Safety Oversight Report: <i>Mr. Lahiru Karunaratne, WMSC Business Process Specialist outlined WMSC’s successful efforts to comply with the Annual Reporting to FTA requirement, well in advance of the March 15th deadline. FTA requires SSOA to report their activities each year by March 15th. This is the first year that the FTA required that all SSOA’s use a FTA provided web-based tool instead of the spreadsheet-based reporting as was done in previous years.</i></p>
10.	<p>Corrective Action Plans (CAPS): <i>Sharmila Samarasinghe, COO; Chris Difatta, WMSC Manager of Compliance and Oversight and Tino Sahoo, WMSC Subject Matter Expert Traction Power:</i></p>

	<p><i>Mr. Difatta presented an update on proposed Corrective Action Plans (CAPS) Metrorail had submitted to WMSC for review pertaining to loss of speed commands, electronic device use policy, station overruns, Metrorail employee hours of service, and dysfunction in the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC).</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Samarasinghe described a new effort the WMSC staff will be undertaking to assess how effectively Metrorail is sustaining the changes instituted in the past as a result of various investigations and directives and recommendations issued by the Federal Transit Administration the NTSB, and other safety organizations.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Sahoo presented the first of these focused-on Metrorail's efforts to address state of repair of its aging traction power infrastructure.</i></p>
11.	<p>Audits. <i>Ms. Samarasinghe, WMSC COO:</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Chris Difatta, Manager of Compliance and Oversight provided an update on the WMSC Audit program. The Roadway Worker Program (RWP) audit report is being finalized by WMSC staff. There are several more audits planned by WMSC for 2019 including audits on the rail maintenance vehicle maintenance, escalators and elevator maintenance.</i></p>
12.	<p>Inspection Reports <i>Sharmila Samarasinghe, WMSC COO:</i></p> <p><i>SSOAs are mandated to conduct inspections to have a contemporaneous assessment of the state of the rail system and to conduct verifications of corrective action plans implemented in response to identified safety gaps. Ms. Samarasinghe described the WMSC's risk-based inspections program.</i></p>
13.	<p>WMSC Finance and Operations Committee <i>Ms. Debra Farrar-Dyke, WMSC Secretary/Treasurer:</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Debra Farrar-Dyke proposed one procurement action to consider. The procurement of SSOA management software. This software will provide a customized database to store data about investigations, inspections, and corrective action plans. Staff estimates that \$70,000 will be required to accomplish this work. The procurement was approved by the commissioners.</i></p>
14.	<p>Resolutions: <i>David Mayer, WMSC, CEO: None.</i></p>
15.	<p>Adjournment. <i>Chair Hart adjourned the meeting and noted the next public meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at the Spire Conference Center, located at 750 First St., N.E. Washington DC.</i></p>